

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: frank@yorks.demon.co.uk (Frank, G3YCC)
Subject: [3028] Anyone for a DX Sked?
Message-ID: <6991@yorks.demon.co.uk>

Hi. Does anyone fancy a sked on 14.060 CW sometime? I have worked a couple of US stations in the past few weeks... just suggest a time (GMT please - don't understand anything else :-))
Will be absent for four days this week, though.
Have fun and CUL?

--
Frank G3YCC (G QRP 042)
Email: frank@yorks.demon.co.uk

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: adam@philadelphia.libertynet.org (Adam O'Donnell)
Subject: [3033] LC oscillator with 2SC1957?
Message-ID: <9509041600.AA03140@philadelphia.libertynet.org>

Would it be possible to build a single stage transmitter with a variable LC network using a 2SC1957 as the transistor? You might possibly be able to eek out 1w with only 10 components...

72

--
Adam O'Donnell, N3RCS
Amsat: N3RCS@AMSAT.ORG
Internet: ADAM@LIBERTYNET.ORG

"I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon. I want to know His thoughts, the rest are details."

-- Albert Einstein

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: adam@philadelphia.libertynet.org (Adam O'Donnell)
Subject: [3024] more bandwidth on 30?
Message-ID: <9509040048.AA14548@philadelphia.libertynet.org>

I heard that the US governmnet reccomended that 200kc more on 30.

Has anyone else heard anthing that would corroborate this information?

72

--

Adam O'Donnell, N3RCS
Amsat: N3RCS@AMSAT.ORG
Internet: ADAM@LIBERTYNET.ORG

"I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon. I want to know His thoughts, the rest are details."

-- Albert Einstein

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: Marrie Rosenbrand <100543.124@compuserve.com>
Subject: [3034] NorCal40A Problem
Message-ID: <950904172505_100543.124_EHK150-1@CompuServe.COM>

Hi Gang,

About two weeks ago I recieved my NorCal40A kit, and had a great time assembling it. IMHO the design/board/package is first class!

However :-).

When the whole thing was ready to get hooked up to the DC supply, and I was jumping up and down 'cause of the fact there was no cloud of smoke and all, I noticed I heard nothing at all through my headphones...

Investigation with my DMV showed that current went as far as U5 (which isn't very far :-)) and then stopped (this after a call to Bob Dyer at Wilderness who suggested I should get 8 Volt at the output of this component).

Presuming I had a bum part, I ventured out to get 2 new ones (yes! two. You never know :-)).

Installed a new 78L08..... still nothing. Okay..... Installed the second one (I told you I had a backup :-)). Erhmmm... still nothing.

Suffice to say I went nothing short of berserk! After settling down I decided to test the new components by using one of the plates of the kit as a ground and then applying current to the component.

I got a neat 7.99 Volt from both the replacement parts (the old one was blown alright), and they didn't get hot either.

So, installed a 78L08 at U5, assembled the whole thing together again, but still nothing at the output, and it got real hot too.

At a certain time this evening I am going to call Bob at Wilderness again (I'm in the Netherlands :-)) to see if he has some advice for a '40A deprived cw hungry HAM (heck, I even ordered BNC plugs for my Aircel 7 cable :-)).

In the meantime. What could this be? Bad ground? If so, where??? I'm currently in a perpetual motion of baffooness, so any help is most welcome.

Please answer direct, I'm getting the digest :-)

72!

Marrie
PA3FZS

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: Rarland@Microserve.com (Rarland)
Subject: [3030] OHR SCAF Filter Kit
Message-ID: <9509041536.AA28129@dungeon.Microserve.Net>

Hi Gang:

Just finished the OHR SCAF kit and happy to report that it works much better than I ever thought it would! I am very impressed with this filter.

Comparing it side-by-side with my T-T 206 active AF filter accessory for the Argo 509, it works circles around it! The bandwidths are selective from 2440 to 180 Hz... The skirts are really quite impressive. I worked an LZ1 on the low end of 20 meters a couple of nights ago and there were at least 4 other stations within 2 kHz of us. With the SCAF on line, I was able to copy only the LZ1. Using the 206 filter I could not get a single signal copy on the Bulgarian.

I only wish that there was an 1800 Hz bandwidth (for narrow SSB) and that Dick would sell only the board and the parts for the board. I am now stuck with another box that I don't need, as I am deboxing the SCAF and putting it inside a console for the Argo 509.

73 rich

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [3027] Problem with NorCal 40A
Message-ID: <199509040501.WAA03397@mailhost.primenet.com>

Here's a problem I've not run into before:

I turned on my NorCal 40A this evening, and got no response from the receiver. Checked the power; OK. Antenna OK. Well, then I'll work some 30M, so I turned the OHR Explorer on, and the NorCal came alive! Turned the Explorer off, and the NorCal rcvr went dead.

As long as the NorCal is within 3-4 feet of the OHR 30, and the 30 is powered up, the NorCal works. Turn the OHR off, and the NorCal rcvr goes away.

I'm baffled. Any ideas, anyone?

72/73, de Roger, AA7QY
aa7qy@primenet.com

NorCal #1099

NEQRP #383

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: Rarland@Microserve.com (Rarland)
Subject: [3031] QRP Book Orders
Message-ID: <9509041545.AA28409@dungeon.Microserve.Net>

Hi Gang:

Still have a box of books left.

Vol-I is Basic QRP
Vol-II is Advanced Operating
Vol-III is Gear/accessories/software

Great reading (of course I am biased)!

Vol-I & II are \$13.50 each including book rate postage in the US.
Vol-II is \$17.00 including book rate postage in the US.
(Canadians add \$2 per book, US funds ONLY)

The entire set: \$44 which includes priority mail in the US.

Send checks or money orders (US funds ONLY) to:

Rich Arland
PO Box 1782
Shavertown, PA 18708

73rich

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: jlowman@iepsnet.com (Jim Lowman)
Subject: [3036] QRP PLus from Index Labs
Message-ID: <199509042007.QAA1330567@nss1.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

You guys have me convinced, as well, after reading this list for a few months.

I know there have been several posts here about the Index Labs QRP Plus, and I have read several. Unfortunately, I didn't save any of them. I do remember that everyone held the QRP Plus in high regard.

It almost looks too good to be true, at the price. Is there any downside to this rig? How long does it take to receive, after being ordered? I understand that IL builds each one, as ordered.

A friend just got a Ten-Tec 555, and I had considered its QRP sibling, but don't like the idea of having to change modules with each band change. It seems like the contacts would wear, or the socket would get sloppy, after many removals and insertions.

All advice will be greatly appreciated.

73, and have a great holiday weekend!

Jim, KF6CR

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: dcscott@ix.netcom.com (Dale Scott)
Subject: [3037] QRP+ Gain Knob
Message-ID: <199509042025.NAA10311@ix5.ix.netcom.com>

If any of you QRP+ owners are still searching for a knob for the rear mounted RF gain control I just stumbled on one that works great. Try the round knob that is on a common, household rotary dimmer switch. Only problem is my wife seems to think I should have left it on the light switch.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: Bruce Pea <pea@wri.com>
Subject: [3026] The sweetest sound!
Message-ID: <199509040333.WAA02268@dragonfly.wri.com>

I have to jump in and tell you all the sweetest sound I've ever heard was tonight when I fired up my Norcal 40A from Wilderness Radio for the first time and N2UXC called back to me.

I also want to mention how absolutely delighted I am with my Norcal 40A. This was the first kit I have ever assembled, and yes I did have to send it back to Wilderness to have all my mistakes corrected. Nevertheless it was thrilling to fire it up for the first time. Bob Dyer at Wilderness is great to work with.

If any of you folks ever make it over to the novice bands give a listen, I'll be there alot!!

73s de Bruce, N9WKE

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: KenKD1XS@aol.com
Subject: [3025] Re: 80 meter Novice QRP ?
Message-ID: <950903214949_90489942@emout04.mail.aol.com>

In a message dated 95-09-03 19:00:22 EDT, GBB1@MARISTB.MARIST.EDU (Bowes, Fr. Bruce) writes:

>Where do the Novices who are using QRPP hang out on the 80 meter band?
>I know that it is 7110 on 40.
>TNX
>Fr Bowes
>
>

I have a frequency list that shows 3710 for Novice QRP. I have not tried it as I do not have an antenna for 80M.

Ken KD1XS

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: cebik@UTKVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU
Subject: [3029] Re: 80 meter Novice QRP ?
Message-ID: <Pine.PMDF.3.91.950904070325.543220421B-100000@utkvx.utk.edu>

On Sun, 3 Sep 1995, Bowes, Fr. Bruce wrote:
> Where do the Novices who are using QRPP hang out on the 80 meter band?
> I know that it is 7110 on 40.
Try 3710. do not forget 21110 for Novices when 15 is open. I encourage all to snare some Novices--perhaps a few will exchange their dreams of linears for dreams of new QRP kits to build.
-73-
LB, W4RNL

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: "Charles A. Rubenstein" <rubenc@iglou.com>
Subject: [3035] Re: NorCal40A Problem
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.950904144349.20750A-100000@iglou2>

Marrie, I know it may sound simple, but check without the part in place for a short from the output of the regulator to ground, or perhaps a solder bridge across them.

Charlie Rubenstein
KB8BWE@N8LHG.#CIN.OH.USA.NA
rubenc@iglou.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: aa7qy@primenet.com (Roger Hightower)
Subject: [3032] Re: Problem with NorCal 40A
Message-ID: <199509041553.IAA10185@mailhost.primenet.com>

>Hi Roger,
>

>Are both rigs hooked to the same power supply ? try disconnecting one of
>them. see what happens. Do you have good plus and ground connections from the
>power supply to "each" rig ?
>Are you using a common keyer or amplified speaker with both, check the
>cables. I'll bet one of them has come partially unplugged and you're
>completing the ground path with you turn on the second rig.
>
>72, Byron WA8LCZ Detroit
>

Wow! The prize goes to you, Byron. Both rigs were hooked to the same
keyer via a Y harness (I got tired of having to change the cable all
the time). Unplugged the keyer, and the problem went away. So much
for making things convenient.

Thanks much es 72, de Roger, AA7QY
aa7qy@primenet.com NorCal #1099 NEQRP #383

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Mon Sep 4 19:49:00 1995
From: N5EM@aol.com
Subject: [3038] Re: QRP PLus from Index Labs
Message-ID: <950904175709_91015277@mail04.mail.aol.com>

Jim,

I got mine after waiting about 4 months. Of course, I bought mine with the
great QRP-L group purchase of 37 units. I'm sure that Index was glad to have
the order but it severely taxed their production. It was worth the wait. I
am sure that I have not used mine as much as others, but here are my
observations.

You will not be disappointed in your observations. It is a miracle of
packaging. First of all, this puppy is small. Well, maybe not like a NorCal
40A, but then it is general coverage 1.8 to 30 mhz. with all ham bands in
between! The functionallity from the front panel is nothing short of
amazing. With just a few buttons (which you have to work with a bit to
learn), you can change frequency, use/load a memory, change the bandwidth
from 100 hz. to 2400 hz. in 100 hz. steps, change the keying speed (of course
the keyer is built-in) in increments of 5 wpm, change mode from SSB to CW,
change the tuning rate from slow to fast or go to RIT / Split mode. Keying
is very nice from on-air reports. Hope to get some SSB use in pretty soon,
but I don't operate much SSB. Planing a couple of Cub Scout campouts this
October where we'll give the SSB mode a real workout.

Now, a couple of wishes.

I wish that the power control was on the front panel. You need to adjust it when moving from band to band. If, for example you are doing work at .95 watts, you will have to readjust when you change bands. I realize that it would be an engineering challenge to move it.

I wish that the keyer speed was incremented in 1 wpm steps. 5 wpm is acceptable but not best.

I wish that the radio had the ability to load at least one of the memories with different frequencies. I would like to work RS-12, mode K (21 mhz. TX, 29 mhz. RX). The radio will do it (I think) with the RIT but imagine cranking the freq. from 21 to 29 mhz. in 100 hz. steps. I realize that not many folks would want to cross band, but I think that a small software change might get this one and allow RS12 satellite operation.

I wish the radio had an accessory cover/case for portable operation.. Specifically, I'm thinking about a padded leather case to keep me from scratching it up when I take it out to a Cub Scout outing. I will eventually make one but I'd have gladly paid \$40 for one designed for the radio. As a note, I always spend the \$20 or so to buy a soft cover to protect my handheld radio. In fact, now a days, you have to buy two, one for the short battery and one for the long battery. So I will end up spending \$40 to protect my \$500 handheld radio. Why not for my \$600 HF radio?

I wish that I had a VOX. I can live without it. I will probably end up makeing one of these outboard. But, it's better for VOX to be integrated to get smooth anti-vox. Why VOX? Makes headset operation so much nicer, especially if you are using headphones anyway. I realize that there are probably good engineering reasons for not having a VOX. This is my wish list, remember? It would cost more, too. At \$600 it's right at the top end of the target market, I suspect. Another \$50 to \$100 would dramatically reduce its marketability. Maybe in the dreamed-of, matching QRP Plus accessory? (Please, don't call Bruce and ask about this. This is my wish list, remember :-))

I wish the LCD display had a backlight for night operation. It would need to be switched on and off. Maybe from combinations from the front panel in software?

Now, negatives.

There are a few birdies. I haven't tried to find them all. Found one at about 21.4 mhz. None on 40 or 30 that I have noticed. There is the documented W1AW problem. I haven't even followed this one enough to be able to properly describe it. I don't hear W1AW that well.

The radio has a documented susceptibility to high power transmitters close by. If you buy a Plus, don't even hook it up if a regular 50-100 watt radio is near by. I wish I could define "near by". Certainly not in your shack!

It'll smoke the finals and a few other parts for good measure. Maybe not within a few houses of yours. Don't know here. And, CERTAINLY, not to a field day type outing where high power rigs are on simultaneously. For me, I operate QRP exclusively. I am concerned about my satellite/ATV station. I have a 100 watt 70 cm amplifier for ATV and sats. For now, there is NO CHANCE that the Plus will be hooked up (any wire) when that amplifier is operational.

In fairness to the Plus, I really don't know how many folks have had this problem. It may be a precious few. But, if I had it, you can be sure that my displeasure would be vocal too.

Would I do it again if I had the chance? ABSOLUTELY. It, like every other radio I have ever owned, has its idiosyncrosies (bet I blew that one). Part of the character of any radio is its uniqueness. I, like everyone else, will not tolerate fundamental design flaws. I don't think anything I have discussed, except the high-power susceptibility, is a fundamental design flaw. I expect that this one will be fixed. I will probably send mine back for upgrade when it is available. But I love the radio.

If you ever operated one of AEA's DX handies (10m/6m) walkie-talkie size QRP rig, or one of the Mizuho single banders, you know what I mean. They are a speciality rig and you adjust to the limitations. I don't mean that you learn to think of the rig as perfect. Like people, none of them are. But, the Plus fits me very well. I am almost 50 (and may decide to stay there for years to come) and I've made some mistakes with rigs in the past. I sold my Icom 502. I regret it to this day. I sold my TS-130V. Only the compassion of the fellow I sold it to allowed me to reacquire it. I will never let it go again. The Plus will probably be like that. Part of the estate when I finally go QRT.

There you have it. My, not entirely dispassionate review of mine.

72 from Houston, Texas.
Ed Manuel, N5EM
n5em@aol.com

ps. If you are in Houston, let me know and I'd be glad to put you at the controls of my Plus.

Ed